

July 22, 2006

Dear Tracy, Laurie, or Other Interested Party,

The following is a brief and precursory attempt at a model for revamping the registered counselor format/requirements. At first, I attempted to account for those who were working at a regulated agency vs. those that were in private practice. Ultimately, it became clear to me that the requirements were based on ethical principle and were, therefore, not really different from each other. Rather, it was clear to me that within regulated agencies, the requirements were simply already met. Therefore, I chose not to discriminate between them. I accept that it will be much more difficult for the “non-regulated” practitioner to fulfill the requirements that are important for both.

I did, however, differentiate between technicians and lay-counselors. This is due to the realization that the scope of practice is quite different for these two. Lay-counselors will likely provide more support for growth/change by providing supplement in the form of “coaching” or assisting the licensed practitioner (in a regulated agency). Technicians are more apt to be providing case-management, administering tests (hopefully appropriate to the level of education/training), and other duties that are more aligned with case rather than individual services.

Let me know your thoughts, and I’ll be happy to revamp or supplement...or just peruse for your pleasure! I want very much to be helpful and regret that I am at a distance from others on the task force making the collaborative effort much more difficult than I like.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bennett

Scope of Practice for Registered Lay-Counselors

(Need to build this to cover the activities of folks that work as peer counselors, pastoral counselors, hypno-therapists, chemical dependency counselors, or other folks who practice life-skills counseling at this level—may include things like running/assisting in support groups, teaching psycho-educational classes, providing support session to folks experiencing normal bereavement, etc)

Scope of Practice for Registered Counseling Technicians

(Need to build this to cover the activities of folks that case manage, case work, assist with psychometric testing, or otherwise do the technical and life-management work at this level—may include activities like connecting client with support services such as financial aides, doc's appointments, and such, or administration of education/training level appropriate tests/measurements;)

Requirments for Registering

Registered Counselor-in-Training

Persons working toward licensure as a mental health counselor, clinical social worker, psychologist, or other license in a closely related field may register as a Counselor-in-Training for a maximum of 5 years. The requirements for licensure for that field must be met throughout the five year period. Each year at renewal an update of the candidate's successful meeting of the criteria for licensure to date must be submitted noting progress toward licensure.

Registered Lay-Counselors

Education—

1. Completion of three semester credits of a bachelor or master's level issues and ethics course in a counseling, social work, or other closely related field.
2. Completion of three semester credits of counseling theory.
3. Completion of three semester credits of human growth and development across the life span
4. Completion of three semester credits of abnormal psychology.

Experience/Training (prior to registration)

100 hours orientation at a regulated agency including 25 hours of shadowing, 25 hours of staffing, 10 hours of face-to-face supervision, and 40 hours of psycho-education or other orienting and training activity.

Supervision

1. 10 hours of face-to-face supervision (as noted above) prior to

registration.

2. On-going one hour per week of supervision by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Psychiatrist, or other individual licensed in a related field. Time line: Ongoing beginning immediately.

Continuing Education

20 clock hours or 10 hours of documented and approved continuing education annually.

Registered Counseling Technician

Education—

1. Completion of three semester credits of a bachelor or master's level issues and ethics course in a counseling, social work, or other closely related field.
2. Completion of three semester credits of social work theory or assessment/tests and measurement.
3. Completion of three semester credits of human growth and development across the life span
4. Completion of three semester credits of abnormal psychology.

Experience/Training (prior to registration)

100 hours orientation at a regulated agency including 25 hours of shadowing, 25 hours of staffing, 10 hours of face-to-face supervision, and 40 hours of psycho-education or other orienting and training activity.

Supervision

1. 10 hours of face-to-face supervision (as noted above) prior to registration.
2. On-going one hour per week of supervision by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Psychiatrist, or other individual licensed in a related field. Time line: Ongoing beginning immediately.

Continuing Education

20 clock hours or 10 hours of documented and approved continuing education annually.

Grandfathering:

Registered Counselors who have maintained their registration with no lodged complaints against them for 10 or more years may continue to practice under the new title, "Registered Lay-Counselors" or "Registered Counseling Technicians" so long as their

present and future practice remains within the scope of practice assigned to Registered Lay-counselors or Registered Counseling Technicians and so long as they successfully complete the following requirements within assigned timelines:

1. On-going one hour per week of supervision by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Psychiatrist, or other individual licensed in a related field. Time line: Ongoing and beginning immediately.
2. Completion of three semester credits of a bachelor or master's level issues and ethics course in a counseling, social work, or other closely related field. Time line: Within one year following next registration date.
3. Completion of three semester credits of counseling theory. Time line: Within two years following next registration date.
4. Completion of three semester credits of human growth and development. Time line: Within two years following next registration date.
5. Completion of three semester credits of abnormal psychology. Time line: Within two years following next registration date.